(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and if so, the initial amount of this fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Perhaps, the reference is to the Scheme of Credit Linked Capital Subsidy for Technology Upgradation for the small scale industrial sector which has been launched by the Government in October, 2000. The Scheme provides for back ended capital subsidy to the extent of 12% in select products/sub-sectors for known proven technologies. SIDBI is the nodal agency for operation of the Scheme being operationalized through scheduled commercial banks/NSIC. An initial sum of Rs. 5 crore, as an advance, has been made available to SIDBI to commence the Scheme.

Declining SSI

†3774. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country witnessed a decline in the development and expansion of the small scale industry section in the country during the nineties, as compared to those of during the eighties;

(b) if not, the details of the assessment as regards annual production value, creations of additional employment opportunities in the small scale industry sector during the eighties as well as nineties; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) (a) to (c) The performance of the small scale industries has improved during the nineties compared to that of the eighties. The estimates of additional production and employment generated during the nineties as compared to those of during the eighties are given below:

During	Additional Production at 1970-71 prices (in Rs. crores)	Additional Employment (in lakhs. nos)
1980-1990	18665	52.60
1990-2000	29833	58.90

Loan Distribution Scam

†3775. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's reaction to the news-item under the caption 'Pradhanmantri Yojana ke Karj Vitaran mein Ghotala' published in the Press on 18th January, 2001;

(b) what improvements Government are going to make in the disbursement of such loans; and

(c) what is Government's policy to check recurrence of such scams?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) (a) to (c) As per the information given by the Government of Maharashtra, the case mentioned in the said news-item is under investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation, and depending upon the final report, action shall be initiated. Under the guidelines of the Prime Minister's

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.